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ABSTRACT

Although the common perception is that children of African Caribbean descent do poorly in British schools, evidence has been gathered that indicates that this is by no means always the case. The association between the academic achievement of British African Caribbeans and their religious backgrounds is explored in this study of high-achieving members of the African Caribbean community, primarily in Sheffield (England). Twelve subjects were interviewed, and six are described in detail to show the role religion has played in their educational achievement. Exploration of the role of religion in the lives of these people centers on its role in the development of self-discipline, the benefits of religion, disenchantment with religion, and the role of parental religion. In addition to its role in the educational achievement of members, religion plays a role in aiding resistance against racial oppression. Religion and education both provide a psychological and social framework in which black people can operate effectively in a racist society. (Contains 262 references.) (SLD)

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